

Safety On The Road

Share The Road Safely

All day and all night trucks are on the move in this country, delivering the goods necessary for our survival and comfort. These big rigs are operated by hard-working professional drivers with many miles to cover and demanding schedules to meet.

If you drive on the highways, you encounter many of these transport trucks. The drivers do their best to look out for you, but there are a number of things you can do to make these encounters as safe as possible.

Here are some reminders about safely sharing the road with large trucks:

- On a multi-lane highway, do not travel beside a truck longer than necessary – either pass or fall back. The driver may not be able to see you in his mirrors or even by looking over his shoulder. The area beside the rear wheels on either side of the truck is likely to be a blind spot.
- Do not follow too closely. You won't see hazards on the road ahead, and the truck driver won't see you. If the truck has to stop suddenly, you could become involved in a chain reaction collision. Stay far enough back so you can see the driver's reflection in his mirror, indicating he can also see you.
- Use your low beams when following a truck at night to avoid blinding the driver by the reflection of your lights in his rear view and side mirrors.
- Pass a truck with caution, keeping in mind the length of the truck means it will take longer to get around it. You should have about a mile of clear space before you move into the oncoming lane to pass.
- Activate your turn signal and be sure the truck driver sees you before pulling out to pass.
- Do not return to your original lane until you can see the headlights of the truck in your rear view mirror.
- When a truck passes you, maintain your speed or slow down a bit. Watch the traffic situation and help the truck driver get back in line as necessary.
- Be prepared for air turbulence as a truck passes you going the same or the opposite direction. Keep to the right in your lane. Maintain a good grip on the steering wheel and be prepared to make steering corrections.
- Also be prepared to deal with blinding spray when you are passed by a truck on a wet road. Be ready to quickly turn on your windshield wipers and washer if needed.
- Mountain highways have runaway lanes for trucks which have lost their brakes. Never park in or block a runaway ramp.
- Give trucks plenty of room for turns. Leave at least a car length between you and the crosswalk to accommodate a truck attempting to turn onto your street at an intersection. Don't pull up beside a truck signaling for a turn.

Show some courtesy and compassion for the drivers who deliver the supplies to our towns and cities 24 hours a day. Share the road safely!

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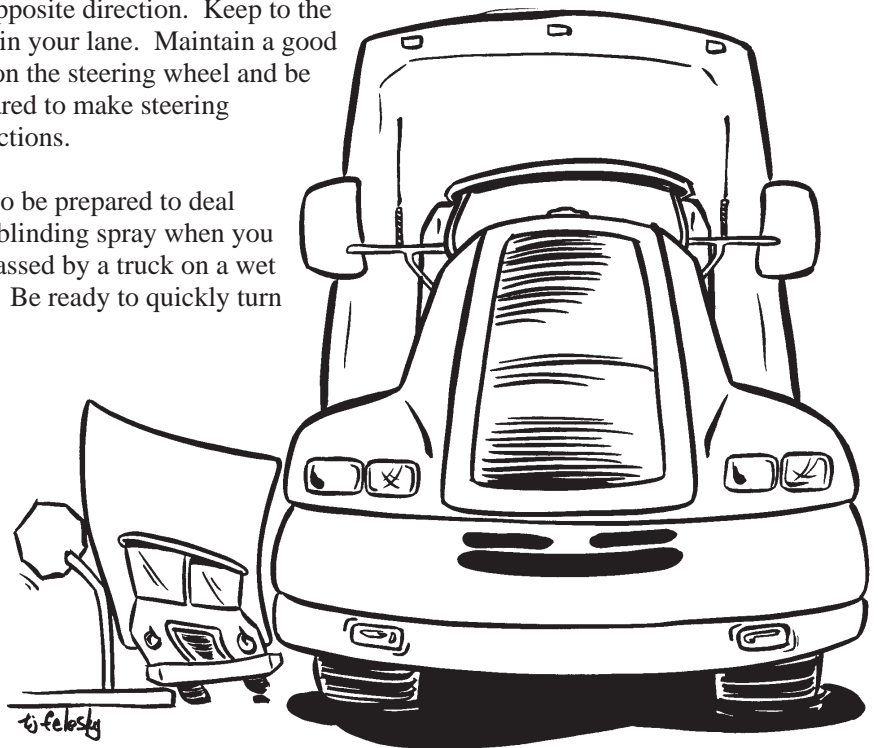
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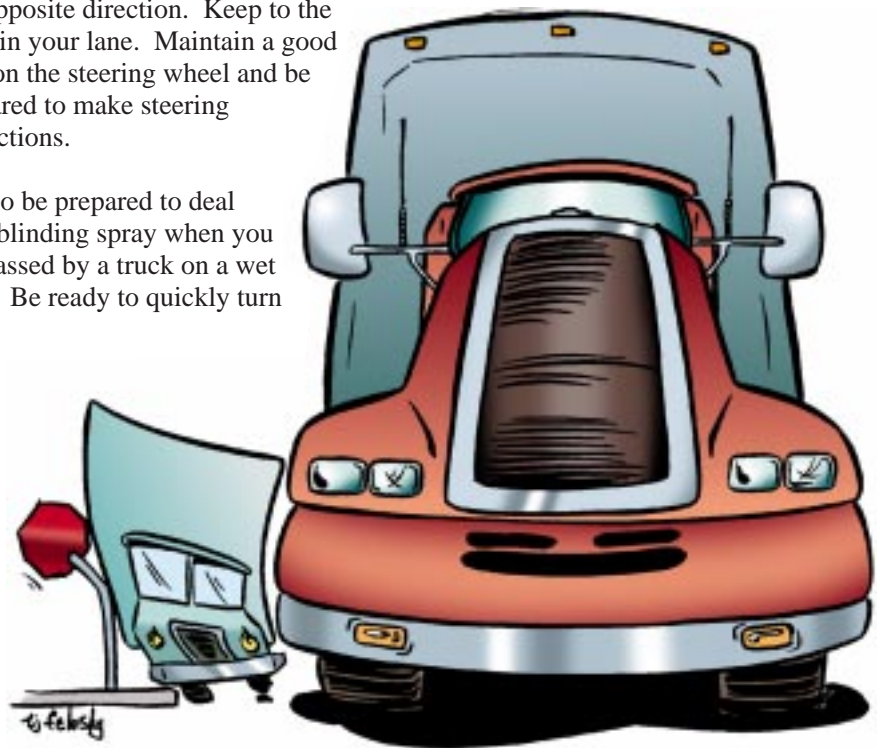
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